Mumbai (1.56%), Agartala (2.07%), Bhubneshwar (3.10%), Bangalore (2.11%), Chennai (5.11%), Hyderabad (1.04%.) and Thiruvananthapuram (4.42%), Prices of gram dal did not decline at any centre.

(c) As per available information 92,000 MT of wheat were imported on Government account in April/May, 2006. Besides, 3.40 lakh tonnes and 563 tonnes of pulses and sugar respectively were imported during the period February 2006 to May 2006.

Adherence of FAQ norms for procurement

3070. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether FAQ norms fixed for procurement and distribution of foodgrains are being flouted with impunity;

(b) if so, the measures taken to ensure that FAQ norms are followed during procurement and distribution of foodgrains;

(c) whether due to sub-standard foodgrains, the offtake of foodgrains is low at PDS; and

(d) the total number of FCI officers against whom disciplinary action initiated on account of sub-standard procurement and distribution of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir, prescribed specifications are strictly adhered to during procurement and distribution of foodgrains. However, during inspection by various authorities, in stray cases, if violation of prescribed specifications for procurement and distribution are detected, immediate remedial measures are taken. The officials found indulging in such activities are immediately taken to task and suitable disciplinary action initiated against them.

To keep a strict vigilance over procurement and distribution of foodgrains strict norms of inspection are being implemented and as a result, quality complaints against the stocks procured during the current Kharif Marketing Season are negligible. With regard to distribution of foodgrains, various measures have been taken by the Government to ensure that only good

quality foodgrains are issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution under PDS and other Welfare Schemes which are as under:—

1. Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments/UT Administrations to inspect the stocks prior to lifting from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns.

2. Instructions have been issued to all the State Governments/UT Administrations that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains lifting from the FCI godowns.

3. The samples of foodgrains are to be jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Governments/UT Administrations and FCI from the stocks for display at the counters of Fair Price Shop for the benefit of consumers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Action has been initiated aginst FCI officers/officials in 3303 cases on account of sub-standard procurrement and distribution of foodgrains during the period 2003 to 2006 (upto June, 2006). Besides, CBI has also registered three cases against 83 category-I/II/III officers/officials and 330 Rice Millers of Punjab in January, 2006 for procurement of poor quality rice in Kharif Marketing Season 2004-05.

Demands for supply of PDS Items

3071. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total demands received from the each State during the current year, till now for supply of wheat, rice, sugar, foodgrains, kerosene oil and soft coke under the Public Distribution System alongwith the quantum of allotment made to each State every month;

(b) whether the said demands have been entirely fulfilled;